REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1, 9, 13, 17, 18, 26, 28, 29 and 32-34 have been amended. Claims 1-34 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 2 of the Action, the Examiner objects to the disclosure because reference number 416 shown in Fig. 4C is not addressed.

The paragraph beginning at page 16, line 18, has been amended to include reference number 416 as indicating the "stripe-patterned ribs".

Thus, the objection is respectfully overcome and should be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-34 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

On page 2, item 2, of the Office Action, claims 1-34 are rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that the terms "high-speed switching" and "low-saturation-voltage", as recited in claim 1, are relative terms rendering the claim indefinite.

Switching elements having "high-speed switching" performance are clearly defined in the Specification as elements having a "short switching time typified by a short turn-on time and a short turn-off time." (Page 7, lines 11-13-14 and Fig. 1, Q1 and Q2). Furthermore, switching elements having a "low-saturation-voltage" performance are clearly defined in the Specification as elements having "a small potential difference between input and output of the switching element under current supply." (Page 7, lines 16-18 and Fig. 1, Q3 and Q4).

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the meaning of "high-speed switching" and "low-saturation-voltage". Thus, the rejection is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-34 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(a) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY ONOZAWA ET AL. (U.S. 2002/0175883)

The rejections of claims 1-34 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Onozawa et al. (hereinafter "Onozawa") discloses an X common driver 3 that comprises output devices (transistors) Q8, Q9, Q10 and Q11, which are provided between the common X electrode terminal and a voltage source +Vs1, -Vs2, +Vx and –Vwx, respectively. (See [0003] and [0004] and Fig. 2). By turning on any one of the transistors, the corresponding voltage is supplied to the common X electrode terminal.

Similarly, Onozawa discloses a Y common driver 5 that comprises transistors Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6 and Q7, which are provided between the line from the scan driver 4 and the voltage source +Vs1, -Vs2, +Vwy, +Vy and ground (GND), respectively.

Further, as described in Onozawa paragraph [0005], in the resent period or the address period, some transistors are turned on, while others are kept off. Voltages are applied to the X electrode and the Y electrode, respectively.

Thus, regarding the transistors described above, Onozawa merely teaches that a voltage is applied to an electrode, but fails to disclose specific characteristics of the transistors.

In contrast, amended claim 1 recites said first and second electrode drive circuits comprise first and second sustain circuits outputting a sustain discharge voltage for activating electric discharge associated with light emission is said display cell, and at least one of said first or second sustain circuits has a parallel circuit in which *a first switching element having a high-speed switching performance and a second switching element having a low-saturation-voltage performance* are connected in parallel.

Furthermore, according to amended claim 1, the first and second switching elements are connected in parallel. Thus, in the sustain period, a drive voltage is applied by both of the first and second switching elements.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Further, claim 9, as amended, recites said first switching element and said second switching element are comprised so that a drive voltage is applied to an electrode at different timings. It is respectfully considered that Onozawa fails to teach or suggest at least such features of amended claim 9.

Claims 2-34 depend from claim 1 and inherit the patentable recitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-34 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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